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BOOK REVIEWS

Los Extranjeros en Venezuela: Su Condición ante el Derecho Público y Privado de la República. By DR. SIMÓN PLANAS SUAREZ. 2d ed. (Lisbon: Centro Tipográfico Colonial, 1917. Pp. 368.)

This is a second edition, revised and enlarged and brought to date, of a book published at Carácas in 1905. The author is a Venezuelan and considers that he is performing a patriotic service in setting forth to the world the advantages and privileges which his country offers to prospective immigrants. The work is technical and intended as a practical manual for executive and judicial officials in Venezuela and the legations and consulates of that power in foreign countries and for foreign diplomatic and consular officials in Venezuela; but it has an interest for the student of general conditions in this interesting and important South American country. Students of history will be especially interested in his introductory essay on "Foreigners in antiquity, the middle age, and modern times." From the Greek attitude of eternal war on the barbarians and the early Roman total disregard of the rights of foreigners, he traces the changing sentiment through the middle ages, which he says was due to the Christian teaching of the essential unity of the human family. The law of nations as conceived today, he thinks, had its birth in the Christian idea. Modern commercial relations and scientific discoveries, he adds, have brought mankind into such intimate relations that frontiers have practically disappeared and the individual has a universal country, where his person, his dignity, and his independence are preserved intact. In most respects, foreigners now enjoy, he says, the same privileges as nationals. The only important differences are that the former are deprived of certain political rights and, in case their presence might be dangerous to the state may be excluded or even expelled.

His first chapter treats of the admission of foreigners, first in general and then in Venezuela; the second, on the expulsion of foreigners, after giving the provisions of Venezuelan laws with explanations, adds a brief résumé of the laws for expulsion in sixteen other countries, which makes this chapter of much wider interest and value than most of the others. The remaining chapters treat of the following subjects: civil

rights of foreigners; political and public rights and duties; claims against the nation by foreigners; nationality and how it may be acquired; international penal law; foreign ships in Venezuelan waters; and immunities and privileges of foreign diplomatic and consular agents.

For a book on a highly technical subject the style is pleasing. There seems to be needless repetitions of the same ideas with only slightly changed constructions and relations. Many of these, however, occur in quotations; and others are doubtless a result of the operation of the legal mind in its effort to heap up arguments, precedents, and opinions to support its contentions.

W. R. M.

Los Estados Unidos de América y las Repúblicas hispanoamericanas de 1810 a 1830. By FRANCISCO JOSÉ URRUTIA. [Biblioteca de Historia Nacional, volumen XX.] (Bogotá: Imprenta Nacional, 1917. Pp. XII, 423.)

Between the title of the volume, as given above, and the title of the series, given in brackets, and in more conspicuous type than either, appears the title, "Páginas de Historia Diplomática". The editor of this interesting collection of documents is a member of the National Academy of History of Colombia, and of the American Institute of International Law, and an author of several books dealing with international law and diplomatic history. The title which he has chosen for this book describes it fairly well so far as the period from 1810 to 1822 is concerned; but thereafter it is confined almost wholly to the relations between Colombia and the United States. A brief résumé is given, to be sure, of the relations between the United States and several other Latin American countries after that date; but it is taken from, and properly credited to, W. S. Robertson's *First Legations of the United States in Latin America*. Indeed there is comparatively little other than Colombian material later than 1817.

Dr. Urrutia states that through the special favor of Secretary Lansing he had been permitted to use the manuscripts in the archives of the Department of State in Washington. The volume entitled *Papers Relating to the Revolted Spanish Colonies* furnished most of his documents for the period 1810-1822. The later documents used are found in various manuscript volumes. In addition to the documents copies in Washington he says he has taken others from the diplomatic archives of Colombia. And to complete the documentation of the first part he says he has copied a few from the printed collections of Cadena and O'Leary. For his illuminating historical introductions he has drawn from several secondary authorities, quoting frequently and extensively.